together with some amendments proposed to the Copyright Act, are adequate. A decision has also been taken to improve market access for motion pictures and videos. As far as the issue of patents is concerned, attention of the United States has been drawn to the fact that this is the subject of mutilateral negotiations, which have yet to be concluded.

On 26 February, 1992, the USTR announced the decision to terminate the investigation against India under Section 301.

Transfer of the Management of Tea Gardens running in West Bengal

1844. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a plan to transfer the management of four tea gardens being run by the Tea Trading Corporation of India in West Bengal to the State Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for such transfer; and

(c) whether Government are aware that a few tea gardens are being run by the West Bengal Government already, and all these tea gardens are in a bad shape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In view of the losses suffered by Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) on account of its garden operations, various alternatives for management of TTCI's gardens are under the consideration of Government.

(c) Government is aware that West Bengal Tea Development Corporation Ltd. is managing some gardens in West Bengal. As per provisional figures their gardens had incurred losses in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91.

Functions of STC

1845. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the function of the State Trading Corporation after the implementation of the New Economic and Trade Policy; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the STC has reduced the manpower during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) STC would continue to handle exports, imports and domestic trading operations on a competitive basis with due thrust in the non-canalised sector.

(b) 553 employees in STC have voluntarily retired under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme between the period 1.6.89 and 19.8.91.

Raunaq Singh Committee Report on Free Trade Port

1846. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Raunaq Singh Committee report on Free Trade Port has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as reported Goa has been listed on the top for this Free Trade Port as it had enjoyed the same facility prior to liberation of Goa in 1961?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Detailed information is available in the Report of the Advisory Committee, copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library.

Sino-Indian Trade

1847. SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: